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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151608

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ALGIERS 1443 ACTION SECSTATE 25 JUNE.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1443

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, AG
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN NONRESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S IEA/OECD PROPOSALS

REF: ALGIERS 1304

1. OUR PRODDING OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND EFFORTS TO SEE OTHER ALGERIAN OFFICIALS FOR RESPONSE TO USG PROPOSALS CONCERNING PREPCON AND TO IDEAS EXPRESSED AT IEA/OECD HAVE THUS FAR PRODUCED ONLY COUNSELS OF PATIENCE AND HOST OF NONRETURNED CALLS.

2. IN LATEST EFFORT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY, JUNE 24 DISCUSSION WITH ABERKANE, CHIEF, DIVISION OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, I CITED DISTRIGAS AND EASCO SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOLS ON LNG PURCHASES AND CCC APPROVAL OF CREDITS AS CONFIDENTIAL

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EVIDENCE WE PROCEEDING AHEAD ON BILATERAL ISSUES, AND

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GAVE HIM PRESS REPORTS ON US PROPOSALS ON TARIFF REDUCTIONS
ON PROCESSED RAW MATERIALS, WORK BANK FINANCING OF RAW MATERIAL
DEVELOPMENT, IMF INCOME STABILIZATION PROGRAM AND COMMODITY
AGREEMENTS CASE BY CASE APPROACH AS EXAMPLES OUR MOVING AHEAD
ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, ABERKANE PROMISED TO CONTINUE TO
PRESS PRESIDENCY, SAW NO USE IN MY PUSHING FURTHER, OBSERVED
THAT BOUMEDIENE DIDN'T ANSWER EVERY LETTER HE GOT, AND NOTED
THAT GERMAN MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI ARRIVING HERE
JUNE 25 TO DISCUSS RECONVENING OF PREPCON AND OTHER INTERNA-
TIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND THAT MAYBE GOA WOULD HAVE SOMETHING
TO SAY THEN. (GERMAN EMBASSY HAS PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED.)

3. LACK OF RESPONSE APPEARS IN PART ATTRIBUTABLE TO CONCEN-
TRACTION ON JUNE 19 CELEBRATIONS, TIME REQUIRED TO DIGEST
LIBREVILLE OPEC MEETING, NECESSITY TO SORT OUT RAMIFICATIONS
OF OWN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND SAHARAN PREOCCUATIONS.

4. PRESS COMMENT, ABDESSALAM AND BOUTEFLIKA COMMENTS AND
LOCAL SCUTTLEBUT SUGGEST OUTLINE OF ALGERIAN THOUGHT. FIRST
REACTION TO SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SHARPLY
NEGATIVE. THEY APPEAR TO HAVE VIEWED IDEAS AS PRIMARILY
TACTICAL MOVES TO FURTHER WHAT THEY TERM US CONFRONTATION
TACTICS, AND TO HAVE PREFERRED TO GO TO UNSS WITHOUT ANY
POSSIBLE PREPCON LIMITATIONS. REFLECTION, ABDESSELAM'S
APPARENT ISOLATION IN LIBREVILLE, APPARENT READINESS OF OTHER
COUNTRIES TO TREAT PROPOSALS SERIOUSLY, AND RAMIFICATIONS OF
OWN FINANCIAL POSITION HAVE APPARENTLY LED ALGERIANS TO MODIFY
THEIR INITIAL OPPOSITION. BDESSELAM HAS RECENTLY COMMENTED
THAT SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS AT LEAST REPRESENT "STEP" FORWARD.
HE HAS EXPRESSED TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR FEAR THAT NONENERGY
COMMISSIONS WILL END UP IN LIMBO WHILE ENERGY GOES AHEAD;
THUS, HE SAID, HE THINKING OF ENSURING COMMISSIONS WORK
"PARI PASSU," REPORTING TO CONFERRENCE SIMULTANEOUSLY AT END
OF WORK. (FRENCH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY D'ORNANO,
WHO HERE PAST WEEKEND, FOCUSSED ON BILATERAL FRENCH/ALGERIAN
ISSUES AND PREPCON WAS NOT DISCUSSED.)

5. SUCH COMMENTS APPEAR TO REPRESENT PART OF RETHINKING
PROCESS, RESULTS OF WHICH WE WILL FIND OUT WHEN ALGERIANS
WANT US TO KNOW THEM. ONE UNKNOWN IS WHAT GULF STATES HAVE
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BOUGHT WITH ESTIMATED ROUGHLY 500-800 MILLION DOLLAR CREDITS
RECENTLY GRANTED TO ALGERIA. IMMEDIATE SPECULATION IS THAT
PURCHASE INVOLVED MORE MODERATE ALGERIAN LINE. WE NOT SURE
THAT IT WAS UP FOR SALE AND SUGGEST THAT GULF STATES MAY FIND
ALGERIANS' HARD-LINE FRONT MAN ROLE USEFUL ENOUGH TO WARRANT
HELPING KEEP THEM AFLOAT A WHILE LONGER. LYNE UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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